

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) Optical proximity switch comprising:

an outer housing, wherein the walls of said outer housing enclosing a single interior chamber within which an optics module and a separate electronics module are located; ~~in the housing;~~

wherein the electronics module has all electronic components necessary for operating the optical proximity switch,

wherein the outer housing contains a receiving means for receiving the optics module and wherein the optics module comprises an engagement device, ~~located~~ attached to at least one of said walls within the housing, by which the optics module is attached in the outer housing by engagement of the engagement device in the receiving means, and

wherein the walls of the outer housing include ~~has~~ two side walls at an angle to one another and a light passage opening in one of the side walls;

wherein the engagement device of the optics module is received by said receiving means in a manner for installing adapted to enable the optics module ~~to be installed in the interior chamber of the housing in each of~~ at least two different orientations which correspond to an alignment of the optics module relative to the light passage opening.

22. (Previously Presented) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a transmitter, wherein the transmitter is located in a receptacle device which is provided in the optics module.

23. (Previously Presented) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a receiver, wherein the receiver is a component of the electronics module.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, wherein the electronics module comprises a flexible, foldable conductor film.

26. (Previously Presented) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, wherein the receiving means and the engagement device comprise one of holes and pins and a tongue and groove system.

27. (Previously Presented) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21, wherein the engagement device is engaged in the receiving means.

28. (Previously Presented) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 22, wherein the transmitter is a laser diode.

29. (Previously Presented) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 23, wherein the receiver is a large-area photodiode.

30. (Currently Amended) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 21,
~~a housing, wherein an optics module and a separate electronics module are located, in the housing;~~
~~wherein the electronics module has all electronic components necessary for operating the optical proximity switch;~~
wherein the optics module is pivotally mounted in the interior space of the housing for rotation around a longitudinal axis thereof ~~and wherein the electronics module is fixed in the interior space of the housing.~~

31. (Currently Amended) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 30, wherein the walls of the housing ~~has~~ include two side walls which are at an angle to one another;
wherein a light passage opening is provided in each of the side walls and the optics module is pivotally mounted in the housing enabling the optics module to be selectively aligned with either one of the two light passage openings.

32. (Previously Presented) Optical proximity switch as claimed in claim 30, wherein two side walls of the housing are at an angle to one another and are connected to one another by a cylindrical sector-shaped wall section having a continuous light passage opening; and

wherein the optics module is pivotally mounted in the housing for positioning at any area of the light passage opening.

33. (Previously Presented) Optical proximity switch as recited in claim 21, wherein the electronics module is configurable to adapt to each of the different orientations of the optics module.